

Retro Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 13, 1996

Minutes

Attendance:

<input type="checkbox"/> P	Pat Boss, Hop Growers of WA	<input type="checkbox"/> P	Dick Mettler, NW Wall & Ceiling Contr Assoc
<input type="checkbox"/> P	DeDe Edwards, Pederson Fryer Farms	<input type="checkbox"/> P	Rob Sumner, Timber Operator's Council
<input type="checkbox"/> P	John Gentry, Decor Carpet One	<input type="checkbox"/> A	John Sweitzer, Red Lion Inns & Hotels
<input type="checkbox"/> A	Joseph Hawkins, Bekins Northwest	<input type="checkbox"/> A	Gene Vosberg, Restaurant Assoc of WA
<input type="checkbox"/> P	Tom Kwieciak, Bldg Industry Assoc of WA	<input type="checkbox"/>	[vacant position]

P= PRESENT; A= ABSENT; E= EXCUSED

Introductions – Introductions were made and minutes of the 06/11/96 committee meeting were approved as amended to reflect under the motion regarding ***Claims Policy 9.20*** that “Members feel it is inhibiting communication . . .”

Evolution of Claims – Theresa Whitmarsh and Catherine McDonald gave an overview of the “Evolution of Claims” business process redesign project. They discussed the proposed model for claims which has been based on successes in the Long-Term Disability pilot project. To support the new claims model, Theresa indicated that the Department is submitting a budget package to ask for more claim managers. There was much discussion about the project and the proposed model. Retro employers were encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed model. A meeting will be held on Friday, 08/23/96 to receive comments and feedback from the retro community. It will begin at 1:30 in the L&I Building in Tumwater. Catherine McDonald can be contacted at (360) 902-4940, or fax (360) 902-6663.

Worksafe Washington – Mike Sotelo and Kathy Willis gave an overview of the Worksafe Washington pilot program which is a joint effort between the department, business, and labor. The goal of the program is to reduce the frequency and severity of injuries through effective safety and claims management programs. Based on compliance with the program requirements, employers can earn a 15 percent premium discount for their firm and their workers for up to one year. The two year pilot with Associated General Contractors will end 12/31/96. The program has been well received by both business and labor participants, and is currently being reviewed to determine if the program can/should continue as some sort of pilot. Kathy explained that the department is not able to support full implementation at this time because manual calculation of the premium discounts is very labor intensive. The committee was asked for their feedback on this program.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the retro advisory committee endorse the Worksafe Washington project and urge the Department to continue this program.

External Access – Roy Manicke discussed the results of the external access customer survey; overall feedback was very positive. The level of usage during Sep-Oct-Nov of this year will be averaged to set the cost per minute to be charged for dial-in access during 1997. The usage has been at an acceptable level. Roy reviewed a draft of the external access three year plan which includes submission of a new budget request.

Actuary's Report – Bill White explained that a decision will be made in the next two to three weeks regarding the 1997 rates, once an analysis of the available data has been completed.

Release of Retro Information – Kathy Willis indicated that in response to a public disclosure request she is currently reviewing the issue of whether information about a group's retro adjustment is public information. She indicated that historically the department has not released this type of information because we felt it was confidential. Kathy indicated that she will provide further information once this has been reviewed.

Retro Symposium – Tom Kwieciak reported on preparations for the upcoming retro symposium, which will be held in conjunction with the Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference, in Spokane WA. The retro workshop will run from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, and is free. You do not need to register for the safety and health conference to attend only the retro symposium. An L&I mailer will be going out shortly featuring information on the symposium. Tom indicated that the program includes Mike Hall on legal issues, a panel of doctors on how employers can best work with them, a panel of department experts, and the latest on retro reform.

Other Issues – Kathy Willis indicated that there will be two vacancies on the retro advisory committee by the end of the year. Patty Myntti (who represented a group) has resigned and John Gentry's term will expire at the end of this

year. John represents an individual firm. Kathy indicated that she will be asking those interested in serving on the committee to let her know.

The committee was advised that there is a case reserve workshop scheduled for October 2, 1996. A registration form has been included in the packet of handouts.

It was moved, seconded and carried to change future meeting times of the retro advisory committee to 1:00 PM, rather than 9:00 AM.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.